- Masonry work on the boundary wall, arrangements for water & electricity supply, sheds for the cattle etc. at the rehabilitation site have been completed.
- NPCIL has deposited Rs. 5 crore with the State Government for construction of houses of PAFs and the State Government has issued tenders in this regard.
- Rs. 50 lakhs has been deposited by NPCIL for consultancy charges for design and project management for the housing scheme for the PAFs.
- Rs. 1.875 crore has been paid by NPCIL and disbursed to PAFs through State Government towards rent for temporary accommodation of PAFs.
- Another installment of Rs.1.875 crore, towards rent for temporary accommodation of PAFs for further period of 6 to 8 months, as demanded by the State Government has been deposited by NPCIL with the State Government.

US officials visit to the nuclear installations in India

1114. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a visit of members of Atomic Power Regulatory Authority of the US to the nuclear installations in India was organized in February, 2005;

(b) if so, the details and purpose of the said visit;

(c) whether besides the US officials of which other countries were accorded the privilege of visiting our nuclear installations in the past alongwith the details of each visit;

(d) whether such visits are organized on reciprocal basis; and

(e) if so, the details of visits by the officials of the Indian Nuclear establishments to the nuclear installations in the US and in other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) As part of the nuclear safety co-operation programme between India and the United States, a five-member US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) delegation led by Mr. Jaffrey

S. Meriffield, Commissioner in the USNRC, visited India for holding discussions with the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), Mumbai, on safety and regulatory matters related to nuclear installations, during 7-11, February 2005. A technical workshop on nuclear safety was also held during this visit. This visit was a sequel to the visit of an AERB delegation to the USNRC in September 2004.

The USNRC delegation visited the DHRUVA research reactor and some engineering R&D facilities in the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) on 7.2.2005. The delegation also visited the Tarapur Atomic Power Station Units 1&2 and the 540 MW Tarapur Units 3&4 under construction/ commissioning. Commissioner Merriffield and another staff of the USNRC and two staff members of US Embassy, New Delhi also visited the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station sites. Similarly, Indian delegation had visited Surry Nuclear Power Station, Large fire test facility of National Institute of Standards and Technology and University of Maryland of USA in September 2003 and Argonne National Laboratory of USA in September 2004.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Exchange of scientific visits by the scientists of various organisations under the Department of Atomic Energy and similar organisations of other countries under bilateral programmes in the field of nuclear science & technology is a regular feature. However, visits to nuclear installations are allowed only selectively and are confirmed only to non-sensitive areas.

(e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Coal production from private sector coal blocks

†1115. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has to allot 168 coal blocks to private sector out of which 75 blocks have been allotted but only 11 of them have started production;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.